

2-10-2012

Montana Kaimin, February 10, 2012

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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THE LIVING BLACK GOLD





COLUMN

OPEN LETTERS

Dear Hopeless Romantics

By Nick Gast

Dear hopeless romantics and sad, lonely bastards,

Here you go — your obligatory Valentine's Day column. It's a holiday fabricated by greeting card companies! There should be a holiday for single, independent people to celebrate! My cats never buy me any chocolates! Truth is, I don't have any real beefs with V-day. Sorry, spinsters. To me, Valentine's Day is just the day before all the candy goes on sale.

It may come as a surprise to many of you, but I'm not exactly what you'd call a "ladies man." I'm also not exactly what you'd call a "man" (see caricature above). Thanks to the depressingly large number of indie rom-coms that I've absorbed through my eye holes, I'm also sort of a sap when it comes to romance (thanks a lot, Zach Braff). This has resulted in a lot of ill-advised grand romantic gestures. We're talking rose-petal trails and comically large teddy bears.

What did I learn from all of this?

Not much, it turns out. I'm still as reliably cliché as an Adam Sandler movie. I did learn, however, that these big gestures rarely change the way someone feels about you. If someone thinks you're weird (and maybe smell like cheese a little), a box of chocolates probably isn't going to do much to change his or her mind. And if someone already loves you, that someone will probably still love you on the 15th no matter what you do for Valentine's Day. At most, a great gift is going to get you some special sex.

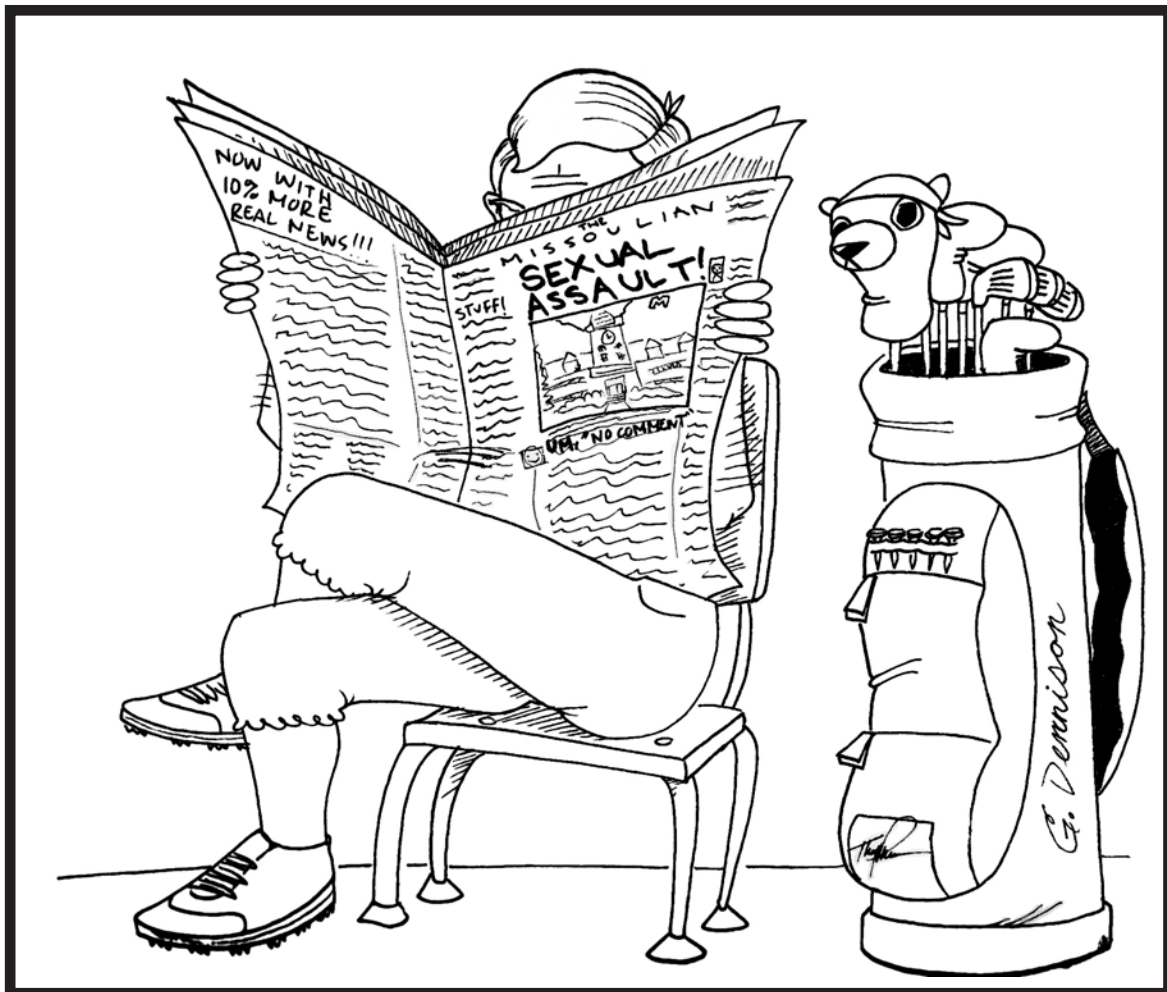
For all you single people out there, take it easy on the bitterness. Is it really that hard to deal with flowers and hearts for one day? Just order some takeout, curl up with whatever animal is filling that partner-shaped hole in your heart, and watch some "Frasier" (or whatever lonely people watch). If anything, this Valentine's Day you should relish the fact that you don't have to waste that fat minimum-wage paycheck on a stuffed animal for another adult human.

Regards,

P.S. Some of you diligent readers may have noticed a response on montanakaimin.com to my last letter. I could only find one error in Adrian Wassel's thoughtful, well-written rebuttal: He addressed it to "Nick and his advocates" and later made reference to "Nick (and his supporters)." Based purely on reader response, Adrian, you and an online commenter called "roger dodger" are the only individuals with the tenacity to make it through my column. It turns out, the type of people that would support me are also the people that don't take the time to read newspapers. Thanks for reading and responding all the same.

nick.gast@umontana.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Retirement has its perks.

Thayne Palmer

BIG UPS | BACKHANDS

Big ups to President Obama for shooting an eighth grader's homemade marshmallow cannon over the heads of the press corps. It must be great to wield all the power in the world and still get a kick out of marshmallows.

Backhands to the government's recent approval of the first new nuclear power plant in decades in Georgia. Shouldn't it be somewhere remote and desolate, like Texas or Canada?

Backhands to Valentine's Day for bringing undue outside spending into politics — the politics of love.

Big ups to our continuing recovery from Snowpocalypse. With all the cars dug/melted out, it's time to start looking for the missing children.

Apologetic **Backhands** to me for misstating the foresters' paint Friday. That gooey junk staining my shoes wasn't toxic, just dye and cornstarch.

Big ups to Rick Santorum for sweeping the primaries/caucuses this week — which, according to NPR, essentially means nothing. Your mom must be so proud, Rick!

Backhands to the out-of-state atheist group suing to remove Jesus from Big Mountain in Whitefish. Just when we thought the dust had settled on the debate, BAM — second coming.

montanakaimin

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MISSOULA

Wilma in full jazz swing to celebrate professor

Spencer Veysey
Montana Kaimin

It's not very often that the Wilma's acoustics are only filled with local funk acts, but Kung Fu Kongress and Reverend Slanky are no strangers to its halls.

The two bands will join the University of Montana jazz band this Saturday to raise money for the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival, but also to honor a man who has been an integral part of many musicians' education.

Creator of the jazz studies program, and the organizing force behind UM's jazz festival, professor Lance Boyd is retiring after 44 years. Members of Kung Fu Kongress and Reverend Slanky wanted to make Boyd's last festival special, so they decided to hold a benefit concert at the Wilma Theatre this Saturday.

All but one member of Kung Fu Kongress play in UM Jazz Band I, and many of the musicians in Reverend Slanky played for Boyd as well. The bands primarily play funk, but their roots are passed down from jazz.

"The tradition of funk comes out of the tradition of jazz," said Kung Fu Kongress' drummer Campbell Youngblood-Peterson.

Boyd began teaching at UM in 1968 and took over the jazz band in 1970. In 1981 he organized the first UM Jazz Festival. Now the festival is named after jazz clarinetist Buddy DeFranco, who started making annual appearances at the festival in 2000.

Directing the UM jazz band is "part of my identity," Boyd said. "Stepping out of it is going to be difficult."

See JAZZ BENEFIT, page 11



Michael Beall/Montana Kaimin
Kung Fu Kongress performs at the University Center to promote the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival benefit at the Wilma on Sunday. The fundraiser will go toward the UM jazz band and celebrate longtime professor Lance Boyd.

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

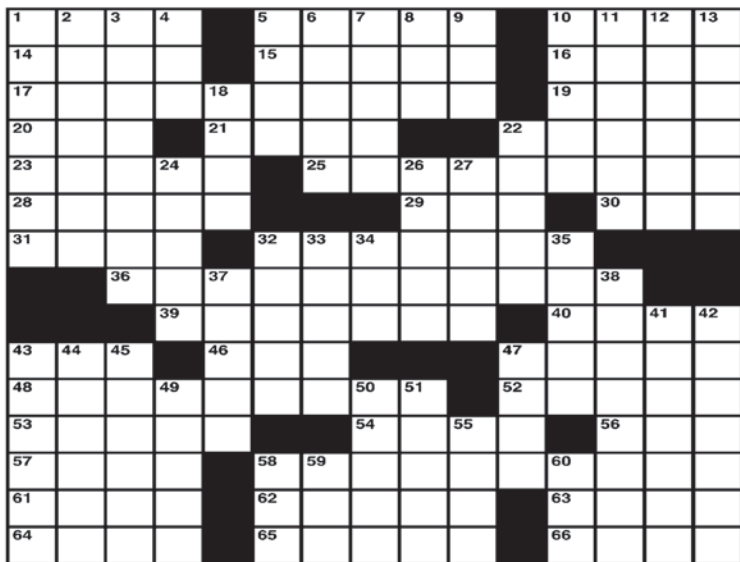
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Classic British two-door
- 5 "That'll do, thanks"
- 10 TiVo products
- 14 Had too much, for short
- 15 Gulf of Guinea capital
- 16 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
- 17 Fight fan's accessory?
- 19 Skye writing
- 20 Where a soldier may be out
- 21 Do
- 22 Davis of the silver screen
- 23 Augment
- 25 Preacher's accessory?
- 28 Like preachers
- 29 Basketball filler
- 30 Spot markers?
- 31 "Freeze!"
- 32 Checkout device
- 36 Conductor's accessory?
- 39 How villains act
- 40 Feature of a good essay
- 43 Texter's "No way!"
- 46 Chemical suffix
- 47 Colleague of Ruth and Antonin
- 48 Donald Trump accessory?
- 52 When Peter Pan grew up
- 53 Love interest
- 54 "Mysterious Island" captain
- 56 Two-yr. degrees
- 57 Input, often
- 58 Vampire's accessory?
- 61 Uncommon blood type, briefly
- 62 Squash variety
- 63 Actress Petty
- 64 Antiquity
- 65 Layered skirts
- 66 Help the chef

DOWN

- 1 Bonnets for Colonial Williamsburg reenactors



By Julian Lim

2/10/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	C	O	C	A	R		M	A	J		H	A	Y
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A	L	L		D	E	E		P	O	R	T		L

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2/10/12

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ON
THE
TOWNJAZZ
MARTINI
NIGHTBrooks Johnson
Montana Kaimin

Looking for luxury on a Sunday night? Finish your homework and rally the troops, it's jazz-martini time.

Walk through the Badlander's candlelit tables, pass the hepcat

couple on your right and get up to the bar before the band gets set up. It's going to be quite the night. Martinis, stiff as ever, pour for just \$4 each on Sundays. Please don't say shaken, not stirred (seriously don't — they won't be able to hear you, apparently).

The DJ spins classic jazz, from smooth sax to bebop, while your conversations spin out of your control as cheap and delicious 'tinis take over your table.

Buttoned up, but not formal, is the attire — but you can expect the random weirdo. Even the bartenders are wearing button-up shirts. (In my experience, that's a rarity).

The red ceiling lights give the place an air of prohibition, or maybe post-war growth. Whatever it is, it feels like the Internet hasn't happened yet and synthesizers are just a far-off dream.

The band stirs up. A driving bass bop, the classic cymbal-happy trap set and the chase-scene guitar take you back — if the venue didn't already.

"It's chill, calm, unscripted," said Quinn Kessler, a Sunday regular.

She was sitting with a friend, as you'll often find her here, sipping a light drink.



Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin

The Hancock, a tart, sweet, appletini-inspired cocktail offers a sweet buzz to patrons of Jazz Martini night at the Badlander.

"If you don't have class, if you don't work, tonight is great," she said.

Though yearning for something a little more classy, she digs what the Badlander has hosted since its opening several years ago.

Sometimes you get that smooth, late-night radio sound — like you're driving in the rain. Suddenly there comes the funk — deep bass and the wacky guitar riffs that make you say, "You need to be here."

Maybe it's just tonight's band, of which there is a rotating monthly cast. DR and the Outsiders play every first Sunday, and they blessed our eardrums this most holy of Super Bowl evenings.

After playing for over 40 years, "jazz seems like the next step," guitarist DR said.

The band looked veteran, in sync and stoked to be on stage, and the trio lined up their sounds accordingly.

Not everyone comes for the jazz, though.

My trusty photographer and I tasted four of the nine specialties they had listed on every table for your enjoyment. We decided that martini is French for 'drunk candy,' but don't quote that.

First came the Manhattan — not on the specialty list, but still worth a taste. Bitter but smooth, the cherry-and-bourbon classic did not offend. It is not for the faint of tongue/throat, however, so I recommend this to smokers.

A clear contrast came in the Ellington — creamy and smooth enough to hide the vodka, but strong enough to make it worth the name. This Irish-creme delight is best enjoyed by milk drinkers and light stomachs.

Next up (and we didn't drink as fast as you're reading), the Hancock. It's your classic appletini — sweet and not too sour, like bobbing for apples in jungle juice.

I recommend this one for sweet tooth, and fans of "Scrubs."

Finally, we ventured into the Satchmo. It's like getting drunk on spicy pickles — the vodka is infused with jalapenos, garlic and onions. The spicy bite overtakes the intensity of the booze. I recommend this one for spice fiends, and those not looking to meet anyone that night.

As it turns out, not everyone comes for the martinis, either.

Chris Vogl was drinking a PBR when he told me he'd been frequenting the joint for a few months now.

"I like to come and see what Missoula has to offer in jazz," he said.

But on a Sunday night? "Weekdays don't bother me," he said, laughing at the thought of postponing the festivities to the weekend.

It was a great way to start the week, and it sure beat Madonna's halftime show — or so I've been told. If you want to get dressed up (and you're old enough), then don't be early — 7:30 p.m. Sundays at the Badlander.

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Michael Beall/Montana Kaimin

Late afternoon sun streams through a Nicaraguan kitchen as coffee farmers and one woman's son take a break from harvest to cook dinner.

THE LIVING BLACK GOLD

A story of coffee 4,000 miles from cherry to cup

By Hannah J. Ryan and Michael Beall

For some, it's a feeling akin to love. It's a bitter decadence — that unparalleled feeling of being absorbed by the day's first cup of coffee.

It's a feeling Americans experience often. Daily, 400 million cups of coffee are consumed in the United States alone.

For many students and professors trekking to early classes, the next 24 hours wouldn't be the same without their personalized brew. Coffee is becoming a work of art with the variety of specialty blends, roasts and origins people can select.

These specialties are purely creations of the developed world: a tall skinny latté or an extra dry Venti almond roca cappuccino with a drizzle of caramel. Many of the people who grow that same coffee have never sipped espresso.

The Perez family, for example, grows, picks

and sun-dries coffee in their backyard in Nicaragua. To make the family brew, a metal pot is heated over an open fire in a clay oven. Dried and shelled coffee beans are then hand-toasted, ground and boiled to accompany every meal of the day.

For generations, the Perez family has lived in the northern Nicaraguan highlands in a nature reserve called Miraflores. It's a region shaped by volcanoes, where coffee plants flourish in the pungent black soil and consistently cool mountain temperatures.

As people in the Northern Hemisphere hold their warm mugs tenderly throughout the long, frozen months, Nicaraguan farms begin to dry after months of rain, and coffee plant flowers have transformed into ruby fruit.

It's January — harvest time in the coffee world.



INTO THE COFFEE HILLS

Last night's rain turned the dirt road leading to the Perez farm into a muddy stream. The sun has yet to burn off the mist that hugged the hills. Acres of semi-forested farmland span the countryside. On the horizon, the mountains of Honduras tower above the clouds.

Some of the best coffee in the world grows in these hills. Some say God chose this soil for coffee and tobacco, although neither are native crops. Coffee was introduced to Nicaragua as late as 1852 when the wife of a gold-seeking German immigrant first tucked green coffee beans into the soil.

Gold mining was a bust here, but a different type of treasure was discovered — a living black gold. With a relatively consistent temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, volcanic earth and abundant rains, coffee cultivation spread throughout the northern mountains of Nicaragua and today is one of the nation's primary exports.

But the trail is long and complicated for coffee beans grown in the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Only Haiti is poorer than Nicaragua; half of the people there live on \$2 a day or less.

Americans are starting to embrace quality in a cup. Coffee was formerly bulked together and never farm identified. In the 19th century Folgers became a staple of every American breakfast. Starbucks then changed the American outlook in the 1990s and showed consumers a different way of serving and drinking coffee.

The United States annually imports \$4 billion in coffee. More than 66 million pounds of that is certified Fair Trade. Certified labels such as Fair Trade, Organic and Rainforest Alliance are gaining daily popularity with coffee drinkers. This conscious consuming is being called the third wave of the coffee industry — a trend that comes after those of Folgers and Starbucks. This new perception of coffee brings the companies purchasing and roasting coffee closer to the lives of third-world producers.

Today, third wave, or specialty coffees, are considered artisan ingredients with a connection between growers, roasters and consumers.

The theory is that a closer relationship between the coffee farm and the final cup of coffee allows more profit to reach the small-scale grower.

In 2010, Nicaraguan coffee sales abroad totaled \$43.9 million and the industry em-

ployed more than 200,000 people in that nation. To sell their commodity abroad, the Perez family joined a local cooperative of coffee growers. Fair Trade does not certify small family or micro farms, so families congregate together into a neighborhood business. The Perez farm is part of a community cooperative that is a member of a larger exporting cooperative called PRODECOOP (Development Promoting Cooperative of Las Segovias).

COOPERATIVE OF COOPERATIVES

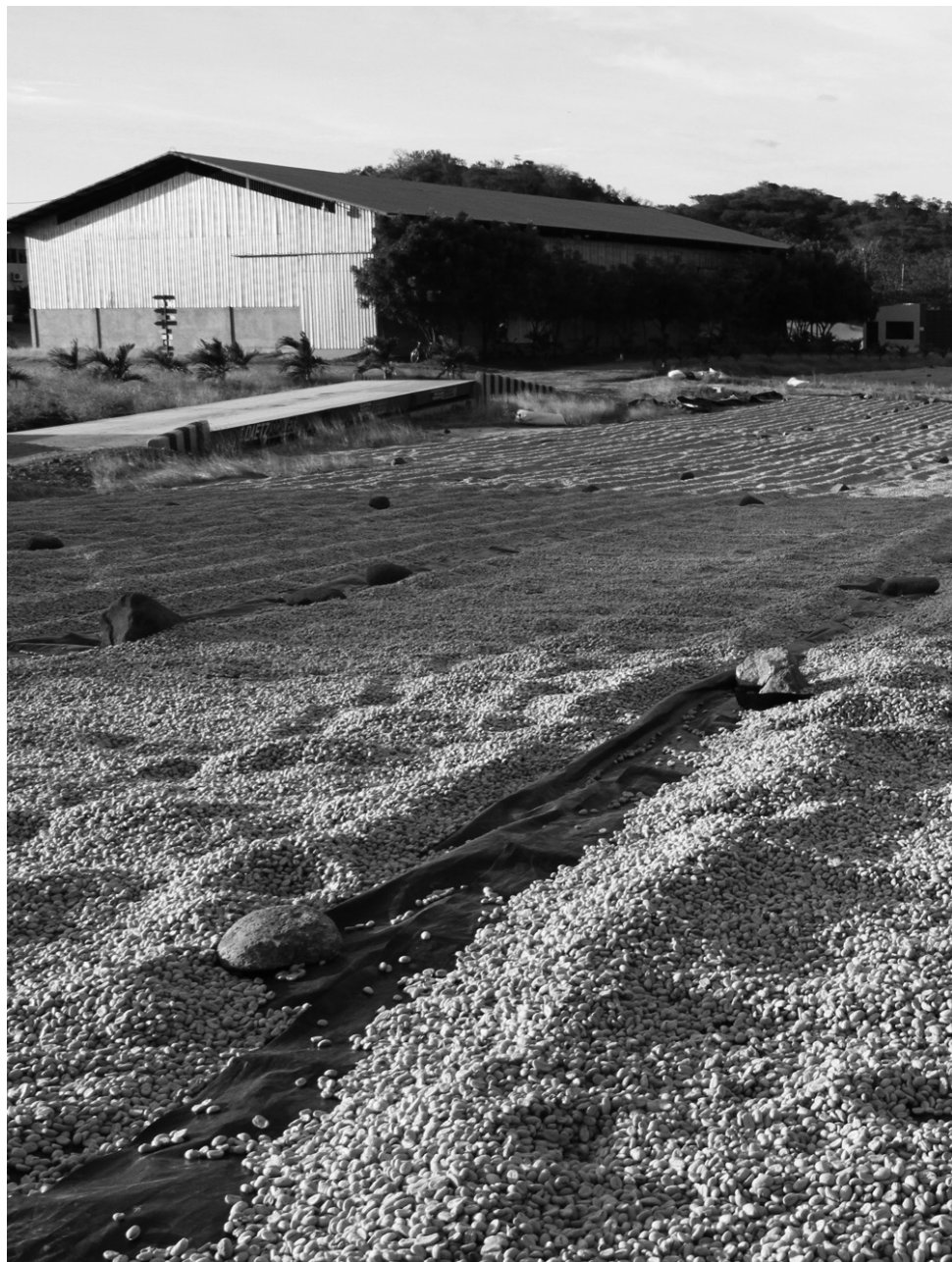
Wilder Perez-Villarreyra, 18, pushes open the swinging wooden gate of his family's home and walks to the *beneficio* where coffee cherries are being stripped of their fruit for drying. He passes men carrying bulging sacks of the naked cherry beans on their shoulders. The surrounding hillside is covered with coffee plots, where each plant's boughs are heavy with red, gem-like cherries peeking out from under the shading banana trees.

This co-op and 12 others formed PRODECOOP in 1993 so small-scale growers could pool their resources to dry beans, have them inspected for quality, and eventually export them internationally. Without this organization, individual farmers would have little opportunity to sell their coffee profitably abroad.

In recent years independent cooperatives — including taxi, construction, coffee and others — have been trying to unite all the different groups into a united worker union to have more power to directly approach the Nicaraguan government on issues of working conditions and low wages.

"In the past, the government didn't want people in cooperatives," Perez-Villarreyra said as he plucked a bright-red coffee cherry from its stem to chew on the sweet pulp. "They didn't want people uniting in a way they couldn't control, so they burned this *beneficio* twice. Many parents ran and hid when the soldiers came through, so then the army went to the homes and picked up all boys 15 years and older to fight on the front lines."

Since the 1800s Nicaraguans have fought internal revolutions and civil wars as well as interfering foreign powers, namely the United States. Perez-Villarreyra no longer has to worry about the wars that his father and grand-



CLOCKWISE: 1. Coffee dries on drying patios for acres in every direction at PRODECOOP's shop. 2. A bag is cut into and sampled in a last effort to ensure the quality.

father fought. He is in his first year of college, attending on a scholarship from his community's coffee cooperative. A month's tuition is \$50. Although tuition may be covered, other educational expenses come from the family's pocket.

It's difficult for many in these small, remote towns to get to cities where schools are located. Perez-Villarreyra had to ride an hour on horseback to get to his once-a-week high school.

His university is now an hour and a half bus ride into Estelí.

The creation of PRODECOOP changed the community, said Marvin Perez, the president of the community co-op and Perez-Villarreyra's father.

"Education scholarships are constantly becoming more available," Perez said. "But they always depend on how good the harvest was."

Another one of the benefits from PRODECOOP is the availability of microcredit loans. With this initial start-up money, farmers can improve their coffee produc-

tion with new transportation methods and technique sharing among growers. More plentiful harvests increase profits, which allows communities to bring running water into their homes or dig cleaner, deeper latrines.

"We're getting stronger and better organized each year," Perez said. "For some, quality of life is better, if they seek it out and work for it. But if they don't, that's their own fault. But we're all moving forward step by step."

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

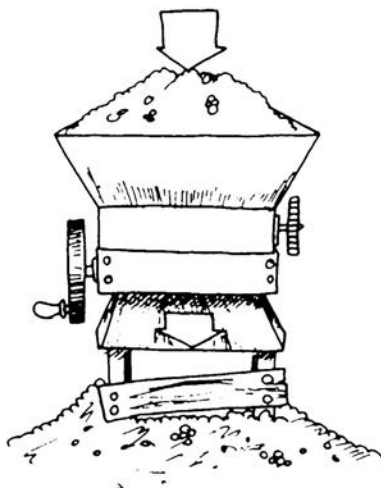
Simon Thompson of Spokane's Craven's Coffee is one of the many North American roasters striving to become a part of the entire coffee process. Craven's is a mid-sized coffee-roasting company and is sold across the inland Northwest, from central Washington to western Montana.

COFFEE ASSEMBLY LINE

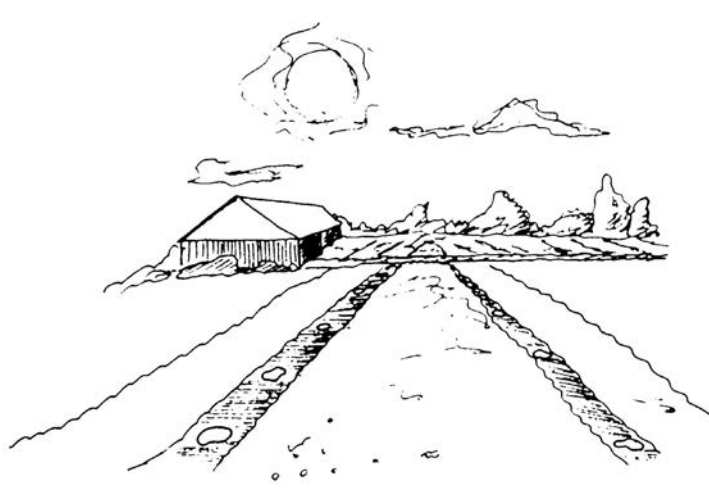
Illustrations by Thayne Palmer



Harvesting begins



De-pulping extracts the bean from the cherry



Drying in the sun for three days

Filtering



1. Coffee processing facilities near Estelí, Nicaragua. 2. A view from Mario Torres Torres' coffee plot shows the volcanic-shaped hills that characterize the Nicaraguan landscape. 3. Coffee beans peek out of a sack. Each photo by Michael Beall/Montana Kaimin

"I subscribe to the mantra of 'shut up and listen' when on a coffee trip," he said, as he strolls around his roasting warehouse in Spokane. "It is amazing how much you can absorb with silence."

Thompson looks across sacks of unroasted coffee with labels from Ethiopia, Mexico and El Salvador. He walks over to a stack of burlap sacks from Nicaragua and palms the green coffee beans. These exact beans come from PRODECOOP and the communities of the region where the Perez family lives.

Thompson and many of his conscious peers are members of Cup of Excellence, a Missoula-based international nonprofit organization. Cup of Excellence was founded in 1999 to discover who was growing quality coffee around the world.

"(Cup of Excellence) is building the bridge between the farmers who are producing quality and the roasters in the world who are seeking something unique, something different, as well as the story behind the coffee," said Jon Lewis, Cup of

Excellence's contact for roasters and importers.

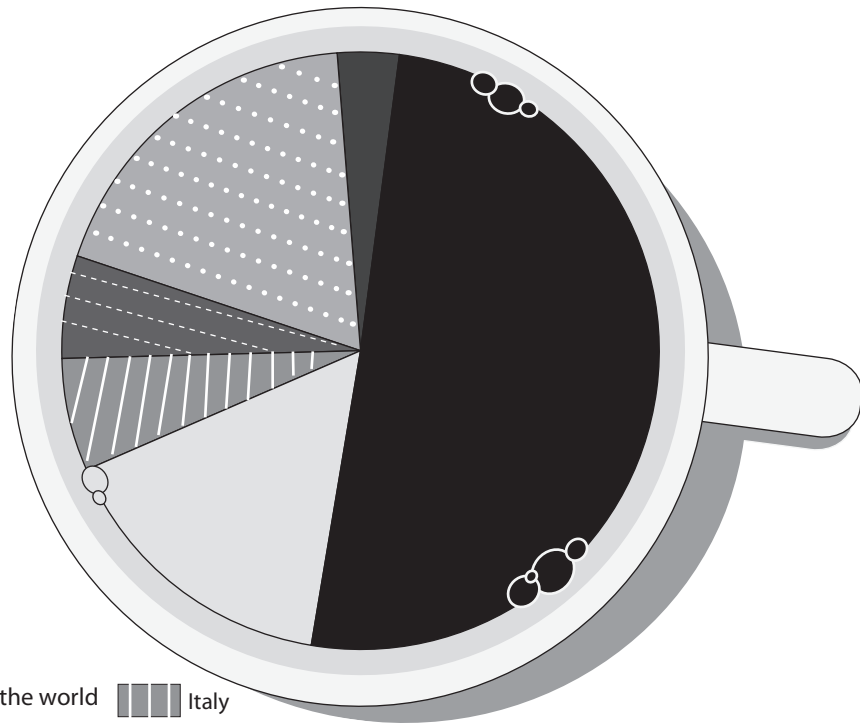
In 2011, Cup of Excellence hosted coffee tasting competitions in eight countries — from Rwanda to Brazil to Nicaragua — where hundreds of the best coffees are tasted, scored and auctioned to Cup of Excellence members, consisting of international coffee importers and roasters with the highest bids.

These competitions are an avenue for roasters and cafés to connect with growers and find excellent coffees. In 2011, Nicaragua had 27 coffees that won a Cup of Excellence award. From this competition alone, the winning growers signed contracts with roasters who purchased 67,000 pounds of certified Cup of Excellence coffee, totaling \$360,000.

It might be a sliver of Nicaragua's total coffee exports, but if a Cup of Excellence award could change the fortune of one farmer or cooperative, it's a step in the right direction.

Continue to next page.

MAJOR COFFEE IMPORTERS



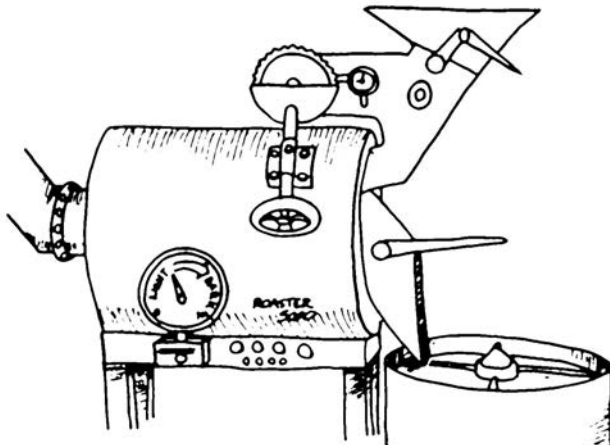
Rest of the world	Italy
United States	Germany
Japan	European Union (except Germany and Italy)



Sorting beans for perfect shape, color



Exporting to the world



Roasting to the chosen taste and caffeine content



Enjoying the taste

MAKING A LIVING

Also in the Miraflor Nature Reserve, Deyinera Ruiz is taking a break outside her smoke-filled kitchen. Since 5 a.m. she has been grinding corn mash, hand forming and toasting tortillas for her family's next three meals. In the first light of the day, a rooster crows from just inside the doorway, and cattle moan.

She takes her coffee black and without sugar. The thick drink is naturally sweet. Like most local growers, the Alaniz family leaves its coffee cherries to dry in the sun for more than a month. This natural method allows the fruit's sweetness to seep into the bean and helps to avoid the extra expense of buying sugar for their morning, afternoon and evening brew. Coffee for exportation is immediately stripped of its fruit and dried for a much shorter time.

Ruiz's husband, Orlando Alaniz, has two strains of coffee plants: one type grows to be eight feet tall with their cherries bundled in thick clusters that are easily harvested. Further up the mountain, Alaniz seeks out the coffee plants that his great grandfather planted decades ago. These heirloom plants are nearly 15 feet tall, leggy and with only a few cherries at the top, none of which are ripe yet.

"There's nothing comparable to the taste of these plants," Alaniz said. "These are the strains of our ancestors, worthy of a Cup of Excellence award."

But the height, small yield and scarcity of these heirloom plants make harvesting them difficult. He said he could never get enough of a crop to make it into the Cup of Excellence competition, an award and long-term purchasing contract presented to just one coffee producer a year in nine different countries that grow coffee.

"So we just drink it ourselves," he said, popping one of the cherries into his mouth and spitting out the seeds.

ORGANIC LIVES

While many involved in coffee cultivation manage multiple jobs to make sure tortillas reach the table, these people also are thinking about the benefits and disadvantages of organic, sustainable agriculture.

This land isn't designated by the government as protected, but is recognized in the region for its biodiversity of birds and orchids. The people living in communities through Miraflor work particularly hard to manage waste disposal and to avoid chemicals in their agriculture. This brings tourism and profit to the area, but there are additional motivations, too.

"We do this out of conscience, not law enforcement," Alaniz said. "We hope to teach this to our kids, who can possibly do even more in their lifetime. If each of us protects the little we have, we can all do a lot together."

Mario Torres Torres is a member of another cooperative that is part of PRODECOOP. Torres Torres grows coffee a few kilometers west of Alaniz and acts as this year's president of the PRODECOOP Foundation.

Without PRODECOOP, Torres Torres said the people in his community would never have the opportunity to export to any valuable market.

"I believe this is a valuable business with all of our futures depending on it," he said, pausing to look at some coffee plants with large yellow spots on their leaves, damaged by last year's heavy rains. "With all the changes that are happening in the country and the world, with farming families moving to the big city and sporadic rains, it's always unsure."



Michael Beall/Montana Kaimin

The finished dry, in-fruit coffee crumbles in Orlando Alaniz's hands before he starts to grind the coffee.

Torres Torres said he's noticed changes in the climate over the past twenty years. "There used to be great rains, and now it's much warmer."

Sun-grown coffee is a great disaster for the environment, he said. Traditionally, coffee is grown in the shade of other trees so forests need not be clear-cut to cultivate. Coffee grown in the sun often grows quickly and is easier to harvest, but is of lesser quality. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, deforestation continues at a loss of 70,000 hectares a year for agriculture, pasture land and logging. That's 135,000 college football fields annually.

something better.

"I think Fair Trade certification is valid. Having seen it, to me, it's valid. It's not the be-all end-all though," Thompson said. "However the challenge is, there can be these small family farms or small groups who do everything that Fair Trade does but they can't get certified, and then how does that get communicated? And then it becomes very fragmented."

When asked what should be communicated to Americans about their coffee, Torres Torres said he hopes that people understand even if there isn't that Fair Trade or Organic label on it, small farmers produce quality coffee.

"We have a sane product that is good for everyone — us growers and those who drink our coffee," Torres Torres said, gazing over the tops of his coffee plants to the arid valley below. "This coffee produced by *familias campesinas* is grown in the shade and clear of chemicals. Believe in our work. We've done this our whole lives and our lives depend on these few plants."

This resonates with Thompson,

who said the quality of the cup depends on the quality of life of the people growing that coffee.

"Not all our coffees are Fair Trade certified, but they all exceed Fair Trade pricing," he said. Fair trade only certifies cooperatives, not the independent family and micro farms. Thompson purchases his best-selling coffee, Nicaragua Segovia from single farms and estates. "Our starting point in sourcing coffee has always been quality of the cup, quality of the estate and quality of life."

In the end he said it all comes down to trust.

"The only way I can communicate that is how we operate, is to tell you the story," he said. "I can tell you their stories, and then you need to decide if you can trust that information."

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HOW FAIR IS FAIR TRADE?

Many continue to question what good this labeling really does for those growing coffee. Simon Thompson of Craven's Coffee in Spokane and others in the roasting business know this isn't a perfect model, but it's the beginning of

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TRACK AND FIELD

Grizzly jumps between rap, track



Courtesy Photo

Zane Reneau, right, performs with Lyrical Motion. Zane is also a jumper on the Grizzly track and field team.

Dustin Askim
Montana Kaimin

People know him as either "Zane the trackster" or "Big Shade the rapper," he raps in his single "What I Do."

You see, Zane Reneau has two unique passions: He's a walk-on triple jumper for the

University of Montana track team, and he's a member of a Missoula-based hip-hop group known as Lyrical Motion.

The rap trio consists of Zane, his brother Sterling Reneau and his friend Michael Graef.

"We were kind of just goofing around and had this idea one day — 'Hey, why don't we

start rapping?'" Zane said. "It was for fun, but then it just kind of took off, and we started doing a couple shows and got in contact with people in Missoula that helped us get on our feet."

Since then, the group has had six live shows, including an opening for Hopsin, a rapper from Los Angeles.

Lyrical Motion's Facebook page has 729 likes, and its self-produced videos on YouTube have more than 16,000 views.

After getting its start producing beats on Garage Band, the group has since created songs with Anno Domini Beats and Beats 4 Legends with the artist Overtime at Wapikaya Records.

"To sit down and make a beat and write a story to it, it's just a lot of fun," Zane said, his black braids dangling below his UM flat-billed hat.

"It's not your stereotypical rap. It's just how it is, so a lot of people can relate to it and get into it. You look at mainstream stuff, and it's 'Look at what I have: I have cars, women, money and all that good stuff.' Our (music) is just 'Here's my life; here's how it is.'"

Graef, or "Focus," said the triad's product is something anyone can enjoy, even those who normally aren't interested in hip-hop.

"We want to inspire people as much as we can," he said.

Graef also noted the influence the group's oldest member has had.

"Zane helps bring out that

weird and humorous part in us," said Graef, emcee of Lyrical Motion and a senior at Hellgate High School. "That part of him is really shown when we all hang out or work on anything behind the scenes."

Born in Seattle, Zane moved to Missoula at age 2 and has been here since.

At Missoula's Sentinel High School, he competed in six track and field events his junior and senior years and played varsity soccer. When it came time for college, he was not offered a scholarship at UM.

"I wasn't recruited, I approached the coaches myself," he said.

Zane made the team, becoming part of the 20-25 percent of the track squad members who are not on scholarship, said Adam Bork, Montana track assistant coach.

"My coach in high school had ran (at UM) and said it would be a good idea to talk to the coaches, so he put me in contact with them; they seemed interested, so I decided to walk on," Zane said.

Nearly three years later, Zane is part of a team hunting for a Big Sky Conference championship.

With two more meets at Montana State University in Bozeman, the conference tournament is on tap for Feb. 24-25 in Flagstaff, Ariz.

"I really just want to go in and jump well because I've definitely put some distance

on my jumps in the past few weeks, and my approach is better," Zane said.

Two weeks ago at the Cougar indoor meet in Pullman, Wash., he took fifth with a career-best leap of 45 1/2.

For Zane, a faster approach is the key to being the top hop-step-jumper in the Big Sky, said Bork.

"He loves the sport, and he's just fun to have around," he said.

Bork was also recently introduced to Zane's other passion via YouTube.

"It was surprising and interesting to see that part of his life," he said. "It's not really my style. I grew up in Montana listening to country music, but I think they're pretty good."

Next up for "Zane the trackster" is an indoor meet in Bozeman next Friday afternoon. For "Big Shade the rapper," this Friday night brings a concert, as Lyrical Motion will perform live at the Palace Lounge at 9 p.m.

But maybe the two personas shouldn't be separated because rapping and jumping only account for a fraction of what makes Zane who he is; they're only characteristics of the man with the midnight-black shade cap, Graef said.

"Zane's two life avenues — track and rap — those are the two things he is known for doing, but Zane is after something bigger, some bigger purpose, but no one really knows what that purpose is yet."

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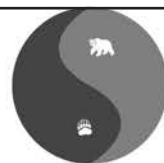
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BASKETBALL

Hill, Sullivan dominate for Lady Griz in blowout



Nick Gast/Montana Kaimin

Katie Baker (22) of the Lady Griz pulls up for a jumper over Sacramento State's Kylie Kuhns (24) during a 79-54 Montana victory in Dahlberg Arena Thursday night. Baker finished the game with 11 points and three blocks. To see a slideshow from last night's game, visit www.montanakaimin.com/.

play
BY
play

Alexandria Valdez
Montana Kaimin

The University of Montana Lady Griz basketball team entered Dahlberg Arena on Thursday night looking to advance its conference standings. The opponent, the Sacramento State, came battling for its tournament life.

The Hornets brought junior forward Kylie Kuhns and full-court coverage to the game, but Montana countered with sophomore guard Tory Hill and a board buster. Montana walked away with a perfect home record against Sac State in a 79-54 run-away game.

Continuing a strenuous week of conference games, the Lady Griz began the second half with junior Alyssa Smith firing a 3-pointer from the right side. The Lady Griz continued to keep tight control over the Hornets, leaving them scoreless for a four-minute run in the opening until Kuhns went to the free-throw line.

With a sufficient lead early in the second half, Montana head coach Robin Selvig took starters out and let the bench take a whirl on the court. Freshman Carly Selvig, coach Selvig's niece, and junior Alexandra Hurley had seven and six rebounds, with freshman Kellie Cole adding nine points, respectively.

The real point sinker throughout the game once again was Hill, who had 18 points, seven assists and three rebounds. Her teammates juniors Kenzie De Boer and Katie Baker contributed 18 and 11 points. They also had four and five assists apiece.

Sac State this season has earned a reputation in the Big Sky Conference for taking numerous shots, creating turnovers and attacking with a full-court defense.

"We know that's what they do," Selvig said about Sac State's press. "That's their system, that's what they play. You just got to be poised, you got to get people in

See **LADY GRIZ**, page 11

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LADY GRIZ From page 10

the right place and you got to attack at the right time."

One player emerged from the game with a perfect night at the line and was the board buster of the game: Jordan Sullivan. In the first half the sophomore sank all six of her free-throw points and ended the game with 15 rebounds, six on offense and nine on defense. "I was just telling myself, you know, go crash the boards hard," Sullivan said. "A couple bounced my way tonight more than other nights. So I just ended up with it, some of them were a right place, right time."

Selvig said Sullivan had trouble getting shots in the first half but when he heard she had 15 rebounds, the coach remarked, "Woah, that's a bunch of boards."

Heading into this weekend with momentum, the Lady Griz host Northern Colorado on Saturday in Dahlberg Arena at 2 p.m. Last time the two met, UNC came out on top with a 59-42 win.

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JAZZ BENEFIT From page 3

Also part of Boyd's identity is playing the trombone. He almost lost the ability in 1979 when he had to have the lower lobe of his left lung removed due to chronic inflation.

It never occurred to him that he wouldn't be able to play again. "The thought was 'how am I going to?'" Boyd said.

Over time he got his ability to play back, and now he plays trombone for the Missoula Symphony.

Continuing to play his instrument isn't his only goal. He wants the students who come out of his program to move on to be great musicians.

"Seeing these kids catch fire and want to do that — that's the ultimate

reward," Boyd said. "It is the big prize in the end."

Sometimes, to get his students to that point, he has to go to extremes.

"Music is abstract," Boyd said. "When you talk about jazz, it is even more abstract."

Jazz is beyond the notes on the page — it is improvisation with energy, and it takes a large vocabulary and wild action to emote the sounds a band director wants, Boyd said. While directing the UM Jazz band, he will at times dance the can-can or writhe with flamboyance to show his students how he wants them to play.

"I'm running around like a chimpanzee with my arms in the air and you guys aren't reacting to it," Tully Olsen, trumpeter for Kung Fu Kongress, said Boyd often says.

Cody Hollow is the percussionist for Reverend Slanky and a student of Boyd, as were many other members of the band.

"Lance is a big part of all of us as musicians," Hollow said. "None of us would be where we are without Lance and Jazz Band I."

Near the end of the concert Kung Fu Kongress and Reverend Slanky will collaborate for the first time. The stage will be packed with seven horn players, four percussionists and a full rhythm section.

"It's going to be a big sound," said Hollow.

The fat sound in the University Center stopped Danny Whitney, 22, in his tracks Thursday. Kung Fu Kongress played at noon to promote the concert on Saturday night. Whitney had seen the band at the Wilma, Bandlander and Top Hat many times before, but he wanted to stop and listen.

"A full horn and rhythm section brings a lot of energy and power on stage," Whitney said. "It just makes you want to dance."

Tickets for the benefit concert are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

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2	1			6			
3			6	9	2		
		5			6		
			3	1			8
			8			5	9
5		4		7		8	2

Level:

1 2
3 4

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2	4	9	1	5	6	8	3	7
8	6	3	7	4	9	2	1	5
7	1	4	3	6	2	5	9	8
9	2	6	5	8	4	3	7	1
5	3	8	9	1	7	6	4	2
4	8	2	6	7	3	1	5	9
6	5	7	8	9	1	4	2	3
3	9	1	4	2	5	7	8	6

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PARTING SHOT



Michael Beall/Montana Kaimin

A cooperative employee in Nicaragua stirs freshly ground coffee for taste testing. Hot water is added to ground coffee and slurped from a spoon. It's the stage where the coffee buyers decide on the flavors and aromas they want for their specific blends.

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